

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - December 8, 2009

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Brandon Wilcox, MDOT Planning, Dave Geiger, MDOT-Saginaw; Rachel Tupica, FHWA; Laura Ogar, Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development (EA & CD); Adam Rivard, MDOT-Bay City TSC, and; Cyndi Gaul, Bay County EA & CD.

Minutes from October 13, 2009 Tech meeting:

Moulthane wanted to make sure that the October 13th minutes had some clarification to page 1 of the minutes under the Trumbull/Wilder Select Link Analysis section that reflected that the traffic pertained to both Trumbull and Wilder Road, along with the adjoining roads. It was moved by Moulthane, seconded by Majerczyk, to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2009 meeting with the clarification changes. Motion Passed.

Engelhardt wanted to go out of agenda order to discuss agenda item #10.

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Projects:

Engelhardt said that he's having a hard time writing a response letter to the Chamber of Commerce regarding their request for support on their list of special projects. At the April 7, 2009, Mike Seward of the Bay City Chamber of Commerce addressed the BCATS Technical Committee Meeting to discuss gaining support from the group for five special projects. At the April 7th meeting Engelhardt stated that the BCATS Technical Committee did not have the authority to give support for these projects and that after more discussion and clarification that the BCATS Technical Committee may be able to request favorable support from the BCATS Policy Committee. However, at that time he didn't feel that enough information had been provided or is available to make any decision regarding support for the five projects. Since that meeting the Chamber of Commerce is awaiting a written response from BCATS. Ogar asked if there was a way to support the Chamber projects without effecting other BCATS projects. Gaydos suggested that the BCATS group doesn't need to respond because they haven't received a request in writing or clarification or additional information on the five special projects. Engelhardt discussed that the Chamber is asking for changes and improvements that will effect a variety of transportation agencies. Engelhardt said that the Chamber was in the process of procuring earmarks to fund their five projects. Geiger explained that any transportation project earmarks would take away from local funds. Ogar feels that the Chamber deserves some sort of response, even if it's not one of support. Ogar would like to see a one page letter sent to the Chamber that gives them some sort of direction. Majerczyk said that BCATS did tell the Chamber the steps that they would need to take during the April 7th meeting. However, the Chamber didn't seem responsive to any of the direction being offered by BCATS. Geiger said that the Chamber projects aren't priority projects. Rivard pointed out that even if the Chamber gets earmarked funds for their projects, the local agencies involved will have to come up with additional funds or matches. Rivard stated that as a rule, MDOT does not endorse earmarks. Lillo said that the Chamber hasn't even looked into the costs for their five projects, they have no estimates. Ogar felt that it was important for BCATS to let the Chamber know that they need to get cost estimates, road studies, right-of-way information, travel times and anything else that would give the Chamber direction. Engelhardt will attempt to write a one page response that will give the Chamber some direction in this matter. Gaydos will help Engelhardt with the response letter to the Chamber.

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New Federal Highway Bill Update:

Tupica said that there's nothing new to report regarding the new Federal Highway Bill. There has been discussion about another stimulus bill, however nothing has been approved. The extended Authorization Bill ends on December 18, 2009 and there is no new bill in place.

ARRA Update:

Engelhardt gave an update and explained that he is looking at the possible cost savings on some of the ARRA projects. The deadline to have the GI for any ARRA projects into the state is set for December 31, 2009. There is a last opportunity date that will be taking place around January 16, 2010, for any ARRA funds that may still be available. If there's a re-allocation of a project it will still have to be obligated by March 2, 2010. The projects have to be ready to go out for bid at the time of submission.

BCATS FY 2008-11 TIP Amendments (MDOT):

Engelhardt provided a list of the various MDOT amendments for the BCATS FY 2008-11 TIP. A brief discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Majerczyk, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve the MDOT TIP Amendments. Motion Passed.

BCATS 2011 - 14 TIP Projects:

Engelhardt provided committee members with a handout of the funding totals available and projects currently set by year for the new BCATS 2011-14 TIP. Engelhardt asked that everyone review the list and provide other projects with cost estimates to be included to allocate all of the STUL funds available for BCATS from 2011-2014. Projects brought forth included: **Johnson St** from Center to Columbus; **Lincoln St** from 22nd to Fremont; **North Union Rd** from 2 Mile Rd to Euclid; **3 Mile Rd** from Amelith to M-84; **3 Mile Rd** from Wilder to Midland Rd; **Salzburg Rd** from 3 Mile Rd to Mackinaw. Discussion ensued.

It was determined that these projects along with the 2011 projects in the current TIP would be part of the 2011-2014 TIP. In 2012 STUL funds for Johnson St and partial funds for North Union Rd. In 2013 remaining funds for North Union Rd and Lincoln Ave. In 2014 Salzburg Rd and both 3 Mile Rd projects.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Gaydos, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve the BCATS 2011-14 TIP Project list, with additions as discussed. Motion Passed.

BCATS 2011-14 TIP New Column Requirements for TIP:

Engelhardt explained that there will be a new column added to the 2011-14 TIP reporting that will require additional information from the ACT 51 agencies. FHWA is looking for more uniform reporting and there is a need to have the total project costs listed in the TIP. Tupica said that by reporting the participating and non-participating costs there would be a better idea of the actual total project cost. This information is to help educate the public about project costs.

Asset Management:

Engelhardt talked about how Act 51 reporting and Asset Management reporting will be merged together into one reporting format. There is an internet reporting tool training session that will be coming in March 2010.

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Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association 2010 Project List:

Engelhardt provided committee members with a handout to requesting project information for all the major Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association 2010 projects that will be taking place. A brief discussion ensued.

2010 Digital Orthophotography:

Engelhardt discussed 2010 Digital Orthophotography and the funding of such a project. Dow Chemical Co. is very interested in this project and they are willing to put in \$40,000 toward this project including access to parcel information that will be provided by the county. Combined with monies from other county departments fund the 2010 Digital Orthophotography project. He explained that while we won't have the ownership rights to the digital orthophotography, we are purchasing the full usage rights of the information. In the past, BCATS has supported and helped to finance the last digital orthophotography project. Engelhardt was looking for BCATS support once again for a 2010 Digital Orthophotography project. Tupica said that she has an issue with Federal Funds being used for something that doesn't remain in the public domain. Engelhardt explained that we pay for the usage rights, not the actual product. He likened it to purchasing computer software, you pay to use the software not for full ownership rights of the software. Discussion ensued.

Non-Motorized:

Westbury informed the committee that the next 3 trails in 3 Days event will occur in July, as opposed to September as it has in prior years. Also a meeting will be held next week regarding the Bay City connection to the proposed Bay-Zilwaukee rail trail.

Project Updates:

The **Borton Ave Project** had the GI this morning and there are still issues with the railroad crossing and more information is needed from Lake State RR. A March letting is planned with construction starting June 14th and Essexville will work with Wade-Trim and Bay City on detour routes so not to interfere with the Woodside /Truman project. The **Wilder/Truman/Woodside/Marquette Joint repair** project is looking at a February letting. The **Marquette Connector project** is complete. **Center Ave (M-25) Project** is done, but there will be some clean up done in the spring. Utility work on the **M-84 Project** will be starting this winter.

Other/New Business:

Borton Ave Parking:

It was discussed that on the Borton Ave project, the city may remove on-street parking, which would allow for bike lanes to be added to the road through Essexville.

MDOT Draft 5-Year Program:

Geiger provided the committee with a copy of the draft MDOT 5-Year program (2010-2014).

As there was no other business, the December 8, 2009 meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

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